

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 based on the assertion that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter, and allowed claims 1-29 and 34-44. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-29 and 34-44.

By this Amendment, Applicants propose to amend claims 30 and 33. Claims 30-33 are currently pending. Of these, claims 30 and 33 are independent.

A. Rejections of Claims 30-33 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner asserted that claims 30-33 are directed to non-statutory processes “because they merely manipulate an abstract idea (mathematical algorithm) without a claimed limitation to a practical application.” (Office Action, p.2.) Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s interpretation of the claims. In an effort to advance prosecution, however, Applicants have considered the examples of statutory processes provided by the Examiner, and propose to amend independent claims 30 and 33 to more appropriately define the invention.

Claims 30 (as amended) claims “a method for use in a speech recognition system for processing input speech vectors,” which is directed to statutory subject matter. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 30 and allow the claim.

Furthermore, claims 33 (as amended) claims a method that is similar to the method claimed by claim 30. As set forth above, claim 30 is directed to statutory subject matter. Therefore, claim 33 is also directed to statutory subject matter. Moreover, because claims 31-32 depend from claim 30, claims 31-32 are directed to

statutory subject matter by virtue of their dependence on claim 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 31-33 and allow the claims.

B. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 30-33 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of claims 30 and 33 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

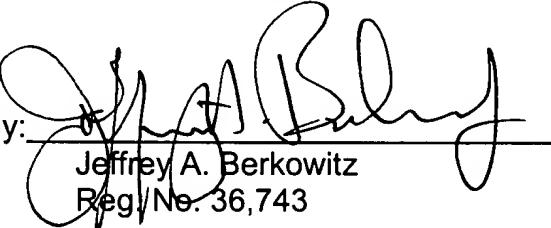
Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, applicants submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 12, 2007